

BLOW TO "SHORT" LOBSTER TRADE

Laws Enacted Recently in Effect Saturday—Cannot be Sold Out of Shell—Shipping Packages Must be Marked.

Lobster dealers and fishermen are deeply concerned over the passage of two very important bills affecting the lobster business which have been passed by the present legislature. One is an act relative to the sale of lobster and lobster meat and becomes effective on and after Saturday, when it will be unlawful to transport, sell or even give away lobster meat, other than in the shell, while the other already in operation, deals with the transportation of lobsters.

The act which prohibits the sale of meat outside of the shell has hard hit some of the local lobster fishermen and dealers as well as hundreds of others along the coast. Under the present status of affairs, dealers in "short" lobsters have thrived, because it has been comparatively easy to dispose of their stock by opening the "shorts" on the premises and selling the meat, which could not be distinguished from that of a 10-inch or larger lobster of legal length. The new law renders it very much more difficult for a dealer to dispose of his catch, for there is another act which makes it necessary to mark all packages in process of transit with the word "lobsters," together with the full name of the shipper. Under these conditions few if any dealers will henceforth care to take a chance in shipping "shorts" especially since the deputies can research or overhaul any package or barrel without a warrant.

Following is a copy of the two acts:
Act Relative to Sale of Lobsters and Lobster Meat.

Chapter 643—Be it enacted, etc., as follows:

Section 1. All lobsters or parts of lobsters sold for use in this state or for the export from the state shall be sold and delivered in the shell, except as is hereinafter otherwise provided.

Section 2. It shall be unlawful for any person, firm or corporation to sell, give away, ship or buy lobster meat after the same has been taken from the shell, except as is hereinafter provided. Whoever violates any provision of this section shall be subject to a fine of not more than \$25 for each offence.

Section 3. It shall be unlawful for any person, firm or corporation carrying on the business of a common carrier to carry or transport from one place to another any lobster meat unless the same has been legally taken

from the shell; and whoever knowingly violates any provision of this section shall be subject to a fine of not more than \$50 for each offence.

Section 4. Any lobster meat unlawfully sold, given away, shipped, bought or transported shall be liable to seizure and may be confiscated.

Section 5. Nothing contained herein shall be held to prohibit the sale of lobsters legally canned, or of lobsters sold for food by licensed victuallers, or of lobsters removed from the shell on the premises where they are eaten. Nothing contained herein shall prohibit the sale of lobster meat by wholesale or retail dealers in lobsters: provided, that the meat is removed from the shell at their regular place of business where lobsters are bought and sold, and that said dealers have a written permit for such sale from the commissioners on fisheries and game, and that the lobster meat is so removed and sold under such conditions and regulations as the said commissioners may prescribe, and provided further that the premises where the meat is so removed or sold are at all times open to the inspection of the said commissioners and their deputies. Approved May 13, 1913.

An Act Relative to Transportation of Lobsters.

Chapter 569—Be it enacted, etc., as follows:

Section 1. All barrels, boxes or other packages in transit containing lobsters shall be marked with the word "Lobsters" in capital letters at least one inch in length, together with the full name of the shipper. Said marking shall be placed in a plain and legible manner on the outside of such barrels, boxes or other packages, and in case of seizure by any duly authorized officer of any barrels, boxes or other packages, in transit, containing lobsters, which are so marked, or in case of seizure by any such officer of barrels, boxes or other packages in transit containing lobsters less than the prescribed length, such lobsters as are alive and less than the prescribed length shall be liberated, and all such lobsters as are of the prescribed length found in such barrels, boxes or packages shall be held and disposed of as hereinafter provided.

Section 2. Every association, corporation, firm or person who shall ship lobsters without having the barrels, boxes or other packages in which the same are contained marked as prescribed in section one shall upon conviction be punished by a fine not exceeding \$25, and upon subsequent conviction thereof by a fine not exceeding \$50; and any association, corporation, firm or person in the business of a common carrier of merchandise who shall knowingly carry or transport from place to place lob-

sters in barrels, boxes or other packages not so marked shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding \$50 for each conviction thereof and lobsters shipped in violation of this act shall be forfeited to the commonwealth.

Section 3. For the purpose of the enforcement of the provisions of this act, any one of the commissioners on fisheries and game, or their deputies, or any member of the district police may, with or without a warrant, search any boat, car, box, locker, crate or package and any building where he has reason to believe any lobsters are being transported or held for transportation in violation of law, and may seize and hold any lobsters illegally transported: provided, however, that this section shall not authorize the entering of a dwelling house, and shall not apply to lobsters which are passing through this commonwealth under the authority of the laws of the United States.

Section 4. When any lobsters are

seized by virtue of the provisions of this act, the officer making the seizure shall immediately notify the shipper thereof, if known. Thereafter he shall forthwith proceed to enforce, in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 200 of the Revised Laws, the forfeiture of such lobsters, so seized, as he is not required by law to liberate. He shall cause the appraisal required by Section 13 of said Chapter 200 to be made within 24 hours after the time of such seizure, and after said appraisal may sell the said lobsters at such time or in such manner as he may deem proper. He shall pay the proceeds thereof into the court before which the libel for forfeiture is pending, and the court may decree a forfeiture of said proceeds, or payment thereof to a claimant, or any other appropriate disposition thereof. Approved May 2, 1913.

June 12.

PUNCTURES THE PACIFIC BUBBLE

Wm. Griffith Glad to Get Back—Says Gloucester Only Place to Fish From—Others Would Like to Return.

William Griffiths, one of the party of Gloucester fishermen who departed for the Pacific coast about two months ago to engage in the halibut fishery, drawn thither by the alluring tales of harvest of big money, returned home yesterday. He immediately shipped on the schooner Catherine Burke for a halibut voyage.

Gloucester is good enough for him, declares Griffiths, and says that many others of the party with whom he made the venture to the Pacific fields concur. That they did not return, he says, is due to the fact that they did not have the money to pay their fare. But as soon as they accumulate sufficient funds they will drift back here one by one, says Griffiths.

Griffiths fortunately had a little nest egg sufficient to pay his way back, the passage home costing \$85. Now he is here, he says never again to the Pacific.

"This Pacific fishery," he declared, "isn't what it's cracked up to be, and the fisherman who leaves Gloucester thinking to better his condition makes a big mistake."

"The layout there is somewhat different. They pay 11-4 cents per pound for the fish, the crew paying for nothing. On 50,000 pounds of halibut the share at this figure is \$56 to \$57."

"You have to work twice as hard as on the Atlantic coast; that is, you have to get and haul double the amount of trawls. The only thing easier aboard the Pacific halibut catchers is that they hoist the fish aboard and pump the water for cleaning the fish by steam, but that is nothing to speak of."

"The fact is the Pacific halibut fishery is like the Atlantic — being fished out — and they are obliged to go farther and farther away and set larger strings of trawls than formerly to get the same results. The fishing is done in from 40 to 45 fathoms of water. While I was there it was cold and disagreeable, the rainy season having set in. As to the quality of the fish they look about the same in size and weight as ours."

"We fell in with very few codfish."

The codfish caught there are not the codfish as we know them, but of a different size and color — something like the ling caught off the coast of Norway, and not to be compared with the Atlantic product.

"There are a lot of Gloucester fishermen out there, who will come back as soon as they can raise the price. We were promised our fare out, which was to be deducted at the rate of \$10 per \$100 that we earned, but in my case and in others they took the entire proceeds of the first trip, so that there was nothing coming to us. I went three trips, and when I had seen enough to convince me that Gloucester was good enough for me I bought a passage back East. You'll see many of the old boys back again, for news of the big halibut strike here since January and the big stocks and shares has reached them at Tacoma and points in British Columbia where the headquarters of the Pacific halibut fishermen are, and they are eager to get back."

June 12.

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PRICES HELD UP VERY WELL

With Only Eight Groundfish Fares In at T Wharf This Morning.

With five fresh mackerel fares, groundfish were sort of a side issue at T wharf this morning, eight fares, mostly from the shore being reported. Schs. Josie and Phoebe and Margaret Dillon have the largest fares, the former with 50,000 pounds and the latter 35,000 pounds. Wholesalers paid \$3.50 a hundred weight for haddock, \$5.50 to \$6 for large cod, \$2.50 to \$3 for market cod, \$1.50 to \$1.75 for hake, \$2 for pollock and \$1 for cusk.

Boston Arrivals.

The fares and prices in detail are: Sch. Frances S. Grueby, 27,000 large fresh mackerel. Sch. Saladin, 25,000 fresh mackerel, 200 bbls. salt mackerel. Sch. Terranova, 18,000 fresh mackerel, 30 bbls. salt mackerel. Sch. Veda M. McKown, 10,000 fresh mackerel, 200 bbls. salt mackerel. Sch. Arabia, 25,000 fresh mackerel, 11 bbls. salt mackerel. Sch. Margaret Dillon, 2000 haddock, 14,000 cod, 1500 pollock. Sch. Josie and Phoebe, 33,000 haddock, 4000 cod, 7000 hake. Sch. Matchless, 5000 haddock, 11,000 cod, 3000 hake. Sch. Rose Cabral, 18,000 haddock, 5000 cod. Sch. Olive F. Hutchings, 14,000 haddock, 3000 cod, 7000 hake. Sch. Edith Silveria, 9000 haddock, 3000 cod. Sch. Lochinvar, 2500 cod, 30,000 hake, 3500 cusk. Sch. Mary, 15,000 haddock, 4500 cod, 10,000 hake. Haddock, \$3.50 per cwt.; large cod, \$5.50 to \$6; market cod \$2.50 to \$3; hake, \$1.50 to \$1.75; pollock, \$2; cusk, \$1; large fresh mackerel, 16 1/4 cents and 17 cents each; medium, 12 cents.

TODAY'S FISH MARKET.

Salt Fish.

Handline Georges codfish, large, \$4.75 per cwt.; medium, \$4.25; snappers, \$3. Drift codfish, large, \$4.50 per cwt.; medium, \$4. Cape North codfish, large, \$4; medium, \$3.50; snappers, \$2.50. Eastern halibut codfish, large, \$4.25; medium, \$3.75. Georges halibut codfish, large, \$4.50; mediums, \$4. Cusk, large, \$2.25; mediums, \$1.75; snappers, \$1.25. Hake, \$1.50. Pollock, \$1.50. Haddock, \$1.50. Flitched halibut, 8 3/4c per lb. Cape Shore salt mackerel, \$13 per bbl.

Fresh Fish.

Splitting prices: Haddock, 90c per cwt. Eastern cod, large, \$2; medium, \$1.75; snappers, 75c. Western cod, large, \$2.25; mediums, \$2; snappers, 75c. Peak cod, large, \$2; medium, \$1.75; snappers, 75c. Cape North cod, large, \$2; medium, \$1.75; snappers, 75c. All codfish, not gilled, 10c per 100 pounds less than the above. Hake, 90c. Cusk, large, \$1.40; mediums, \$1; snappers, 50c. Dressed pollock, 80c; round, 70c.

Fresh herring, \$3 per bbl., for bait; \$1.50 to salt; \$1.60 to freeze. Fresh shad, \$4 per bbl. Bank halibut, 7 cents for white, 6 and 4 cents for gray.

SOME MORE BIG TRIP PROFITS

Good trips and fine stocks continue and several crafts with fares last week did exceedingly well, which will add materially to the fine start for a prosperous year in the local fishery.

Sch. Conquerer, Capt. Robertson Griffin, stocked \$4294 on her recent shacking trip, from which the crew shared \$87.10 clear to a man.

The crew of sch. Frances P. Mesquita, Capt. Joseph P. Mesquita, shared \$84 on the vessel's recent shacking fare.

Sch. Thomas S. Gorton, Capt. William H. Thomas, another of the shackers, stocked \$4678, from which the crew received \$102.38 clear to a man as their part of the proceeds.

Sch. James W. Parker, Capt. George Tufts, stocked \$3198.60 from her shacking fare, the crew's share being \$57 clear.

As the result of her halibut trip, sch. Fannie A. Smith, Capt. Albert Saulnberg, stocked \$3982.09. The crew shared \$105.75 each for the 24 days from the time the craft left port until she returned.

Newfoundland Fisheries.

St. John's reports that catches of codfish have not been heavy enough to meet the demand. Salmon are plentiful, and the price has dropped to 15 cents a pound. Herring have not appeared in the local market in any quantity as yet.

Captains in Placentia Bay find it difficult just now to get crews for the fishery the coming summer. The portage fishery on the New England coast is making a larger and larger inroad every spring, and the number of young men available to carry on the cod fishery at home is small.

The fishermen in Notre Dame Bay who have been accustomed to go to the Straits and Labrador or on shares, viz: half their fish are now warmly discussing the question of forming a Shareman's Union all over the districts of Twillingate and Fogo. They believe that they are entitled to better terms, and consider that they should get so much per hundred quintals of fish in addition to their half share.

Herring is reported plentiful in Connaigre Bay.

The Government Dredge "Priestman" has just completed her work at Fortune, where she has made a fine harbor for the banking and other vessels that ply from that port.

Fishermen at St. Brude's are reported to be taking 1 1/2 quintals daily.

The weather has been very cold along the coast, and catches have not been large to date. Herring bait has been plentiful and it is unfortunate that both wind and temperature have been against the fishermen.

There is practically no old fish to come in at present, says the "Trade Review," and the usual quota of western fish available at this season has been absorbed by Gloucester salt bulk buyers; prices, therefore, for salt codfish in this market must be largely nominal for some time to come.

Portland Fishing Notes.

The first consignment of mackerel of any consequence from around Portland was received Tuesday by the J. W. Trefethen Co. from Bailey's Island. The fare weighed about 300 pounds and was from the traps of Walter Johnson.

Although most of the mosquito fleet was out Tuesday and while good weather prevailed on the fishing grounds, very few herring were caught as the schools were few and widely scattered. The little steamer Pet led the field in the number caught, she having 45 barrels. She seined several mackerel along with the herring, they being tinkers weighing about a pound each. Monday the Pet landed two handsome shad, the first that have been caught on the grounds this season.

Wants Bounty on Sharks and Dogfish.

In order to protect the sea food supplies of Virginia and other places, to assist in fertilizing the land and to reduce the cost of fertilizers, Senator Johnston, of Maine, has introduced a bill regarding the utilization of small sharks or dogfish, preying upon and destroying other fish, which is of considerable importance to the fish industry all along the coast. It is provided that a Federal bounty of not less than two cents each, or a purchase price of not less than \$8 a ton shall be paid to American fishermen from Eastport, Me., to Cape Hatteras, for the labor and expense attending the catching of and delivery of the entire carcasses of the small sharks, or dogfish, to the proper Federal dogfish and shark reduction works, when established upon the Atlantic coast, or to such Federal collecting vessels as may be designated by the proper authorities.

A Swimless Fish.

A queer fish that does not swim is the "sargasso fish," known to sailors as the "frogfish," says the New York World. It lives in that vast mass of floating gulf-weed called the Sargasso Sea, in mid-Atlantic.

Its pectoral fins are so modified and developed as to resemble arms, and it uses them for clinging to the weed. Very gaudily colored, it changes its hues to match the aquatic vegetation by which it is surrounded, and when the latter decays and turns brown it assumes a corresponding shade.

Four-Legged Fish.

With a horn protruding from its nose and four serviceable legs, a fish was caught May 10 off Catalina Island, near the California coast. It was procured by A. W. Funstenau, a noted Western naturalist, who has just finished a two months' exploring trip of the island. Mr. Funstenau also discovered a giant crab with two large feet, which he says has never been in an aquarium. Both relics will be sent to the Smithsonian Institute of Washington.

Porto Rico Fish Market.

Codfish—Stocks are light and prices are uniformly steady at the three ports at from \$32 to \$33 per tierce, net ex wharf, according to quality, Mayaguez having followed at last the advance movement initiated some four weeks ago at San Juan and seconded more recently and rather reluctantly by Ponce, Pollock and haddock. A healthier tone is noticeable and prices rule at from \$22 to \$23 per tierce, net ex wharf. Demand, however, is better at San Juan than at either Ponce or Mayaguez. Reported by S. Ramirez & Co.

Import Fishing Ducks.

Nine Chinese "fishing ducks" were recently imported by a Lake Minnetonka fisherman. The Oriental fowl are placed in the water with fishlines attached to their feet. As soon as the duck feels a tug on the line, it is trained to swim ashore, dragging the catch with him. The fisherman merely sits under the shade of a neighboring tree and unhooks the fish from his ducks.

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Vessels Sailed.

Sch. Mary DeCosta, haddocking. Sch. Rose Dorothea, haddocking. Sch. Stranger, Boston. Sch. Pauline, Georges handling. Sch. Emily Sears, shore.

Fishing Fleet Movements.

Schs. Bay State, Richard and Digby, sch. Albert J. Lutz, arrived at Canso Monday last. The latter is reported with 75,000 pounds of halibut and 15,000 pounds of cod.

June 13.

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THE WELLS HAS FINE DRIFT FARE

Pollockers Landed Few Trips and Some Shad Also In.

This morning's arrivals here include one off shore, sch. Helen G. Wells, from salt drifting with 55,000 pounds salt cod and sch. Mary E. Harty down from Boston with 42 barrels salt mackerel.

The pollock seiners landed a few fish yesterday, the largest fare being that of steamer Advance with 9000 pounds, part of which sold fresh and the remainder to split.

During the forenoon, these pollockers arrived: Steamers Mystery, 1000 pounds; Advance, 5000 pounds; Nora B. Robinson, 4000 pounds. Steamer Pegasus had eight barrels shad and the Bessie A., 80 barrels. The pollock and shad were purchased by McDonald and Cooney at the Fort.

Today's Arrivals and Receipts.

The arrivals and fares in detail are as follows:

Sch. Helen G. Wells, salt drifting, 55,000 lbs. salt cod. Sch. Monarch, seining. Str. Advance, pollock seining, 9000 lbs. fresh pollock. Str. Unknown, pollock seining, 4000 lbs. fresh pollock. Str. Jeffery, pollock seining, 1000 lbs. fresh pollock. Str. Jeffery, pollock seining, 1000 lbs. fresh pollock. Str. Bryda F., pollock seining, 3200 lbs. fresh pollock. Str. Mystery, pollock seining, 1000 pounds fresh pollock. Str. Advance, pollock seining, 5000 lbs. fresh pollock. Str. Nora B. Robinson, pollock seining, 4000 lbs. fresh pollock. Str. Pegasus, seining, 8 bbls. fresh shad. Str. Bessie A., seining, 80 bbls. fresh shad. Sch. Mary E. Harty, via Boston, 42 bbls. salt mackerel.

ETTA MILDRED HAS FINE FARE

Home From Drifting Today With 50,000 Pounds of Salt Cod.

This morning's arrivals consist of two salt mackerel fares down from Boston and sch. Mary F. Sears, also from Boston 60,000 pounds of fresh fish to split.

Yesterday noon, sch. Etta Mildred arrived from a drifting trip, having 50,000 pounds salt cod.

Outside of yesterday noon's arrivals of shad and pollock, none of the gasoliners had arrived here up to 12 o'clock.

Today's Arrivals and Receipts.

The arrivals and fares in detail are as follows:

Sch. Etta Mildred, salt drifting, 50,000 lbs. salt cod. Sch. Veda M. McKown, via Boston, 200 bbls. salt mackerel. Sch. Saladin, via Boston, 200 bbls. salt mackerel. Sch. Mary F. Sears, via Boston, 60,000 lbs. fresh fish. Sch. Edith Silveria, shore. Sch. Leonora Silveria, shore.

Vessels Sailed.

Sch. Kinco, halibuting. Sch. Thomas S. Gorton, shacking. Sch. Monarch, seining.

PORT OF GLOUCESTER.

Arrivals.

Barge Bessie J., South Amboy, coal for the Gloucester Electric Co. Barge Radnor, coal for the Boynton Coal Co. Tug Sadie Ross, Boston. Tug Juno, Boston.

Made Four Big Trips.

Making a total of 309,000 pounds of halibut for her first four trips, the gas schooner Idaho, owned by Thos. P. Quinn arrived in Seattle May 5, bringing 94,000 pounds of halibut. On her maiden voyage she brought 87,000 pounds on her second 79,000 and on her third 49,000 pounds.